

MUSIC



Top 5 hits of the week, according to Billboard magazine.

SINGLES

1. *Dreamlover*, Mariah Carey.
2. *I'd Do Anything for Love (but I Won't Do That)*, Meat Loaf.
3. *All That She Wants*, Ace of Base.
4. *Just Kickin' It*, Xscape.
5. *The River of Dreams*, Billy Joel.

ALBUMS

1. *Sat Out Of Hell II: Back Into Hell*, Meat Loaf.
2. *In Pieces*, Garth Brooks.
3. *In Utero*, Nirvana.
4. *River of Dreams*, Billy Joel.
5. *Music Box*, Mariah Carey.

R&B SINGLES

1. *Just Kickin' It*, Xscape.
2. *Anniversary*, Tony! Toni! Toné!
3. *Right Here (Human Nature)*, Downtown, SWV.
4. *Hey Mr. D.J.*, Zhane.

LATIN SINGLES

1. *Hasta Que Me Ovídas*, Luis Miguel.
2. *Con Los Años Que Me Quedan*, Gloria Estefan.
3. *Nunca Voy A Ovídarte*, Cristian.
4. *Guadalupe*, José y Duval.

Tonight's concert at Miami Arena truly is a perfect combination, uniting multiple generations of salsa stars



Giovanni Hidalgo



India



Cheo Feliciano



Oscar D'Leon

By JORDAN LEVIN
Special to The Herald

The multiple generations of New York salsa get together tonight at the Miami Arena, from godparents Celia Cruz and Tito Puente to stylish young mavericks India and Marc Anthony, in *Combinación Perfecta* (Perfect Combination), an all-star concert jam of 16 singers and an orchestra of soloists.

The Miami concert is the first live presentation of *Combinación Perfecta*, which has already been released as a recording; it will be filmed for broadcast on Univision in December, hit New York's Madison Square Garden on Saturday and then tour South America. The event is a project of New York-based Ralph Mercado, a longtime promoter and manager of many of the top names in Latin music. With the Latin entertainment boom in Miami, Mercado's organization is becoming more active here, prompting the decision to premiere in Miami instead of its traditional home base in New York.

"The idea comes from the Fania All-Stars," Mercado said by phone from New York. "Every decade has its all-star groups. This one has a balance of music and ages, from the young ones to the pioneers." The Fania All-Stars were an outgrowth of Johnny Pacheco's Fania label, which included some of the greatest names in Latin music in the '60s and '70s and defined the hard-edged, urban, Puerto Rican sound of the New York salsa of the era. Their monster jam concerts (at venues like Madison Square Garden) were legendary.

Duets to be performed

The 16 Perfecta singers, all of whom record for Mercado's RMM and Soho labels, will perform duets composed by a variety of songwriters for this project. Cruz and Oscar D'Leon join up for *El Son de Celia y Oscar*. Dominican Jose Alberto, "El Canario," whose nickname comes from his flute-playing and whistling, holds his own with D'Leon on the exuberant *Llego El Sabor*. Cheo Feliciano and Pete "El Conde" Rodriguez, the original vocalists for the Fania All-Stars, reunite for a gutsy, soulful number called *Soneros de Bailadores* that promises to be a standout.

Tito Nieves, known as the "Pavarotti of Salsa" for his enormous size and equally enormous bass voice, joins Tony Vega on the punchy, cheerful *Tu Por Aquí y Yo Por Allá*. Popular romantic



SINGERS, SOLOISTS:

Combinación Perfecta includes 16 singers and an orchestra of top soloists.

singers Ray Sepulveda and Johnny Rivera do *Recordando A Louie*, and Domingo Quiones and Van Lester perform another tribute, this one to Hector Lavoe, the legendary singer for the early Willie Colon (Lester is known for his vocal and physical similarity to Lavoe). Long-haired romantic idol Marc Anthony, one of a new crop of singers who have switched from dance to salsa, joins India, the tough, sultry, throaty-voiced bombshell who is one of the few women working in salsa, on the smooth, sweetly melodic *Vivir Lo Nuestro*.

The Miami concert also includes Miles Pea, a recent Cuban expatriate with an enormous sonero voice, a troupe of dancers, and Orquesta Guayacan from Colombia.

Top session players

The orchestra is made up of some of the best session players around, with some standout soloists: veteran Tito Puente, he of the 100 records, still cutting mean solos on timbales and vibraphone; Luis "Perico" Ortiz, a veteran composer and arranger, on trumpet; Humberto Ramirez,

a trumpeter with a rich, smooth sound who has his own jazz record out; Giovanni Hidalgo, the virtuosic and fiery *conquero*; and Sergio George, another veteran arranger and music director, on piano.

The show winds up with a gigantic vocal and instrumental number called *R.M.M. Ritmo Mundo Musical* (literally *Musical Rhythm World*), in the classic *descarga* (jam) tradition, each singer working in, improvising, showing their best, trying to outdo each other. With this combination of artists, it could be explosive.

Combinación Perfecta begins at 8 tonight at the Miami Arena. Tickets are \$25 and \$35, available through the Arena box office or Ticketmaster, 523-3309 in Broward, 358-5885 in Dade and 407-839-3500 in Palm Beach. For more information call 530-4444.

COMBINACION PERFECTA

DUET: Celia Cruz teams up with Oscar D'Leon for *El Son de Celia y Oscar*.



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